

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

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TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: RECENT OPINION POLLS

FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAISE TO THE SECRETARY

1. THE PUBLIC'S EVALUATION OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S CURRENT PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN RELEASED BY THE HARRIS SURVEY (OCT. 28), WHICH HAS ALSO POLLED THE PUBLIC ON OUR RELATIONS WITH CHILE, AND ON THE POLICY OF HELPING OTHER COUNTRIES WITH NUCLEAR REACTORS.

2. SECRETARY KISSINGER. CONTINUED HIGH APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY'S CONDUCT OF HIS OFFICE IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE RESPONSES TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTION ASKED IN SEPTEMBER: "HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE JOB HENRY KISSINGER IS DOING AS SECRETARY OF STATE--EXCELLENT, PRETTY GOOD, ONLY FAIR, OR POOR?"

SEPTEMBER                      JULY      MAY

73 PERCENT POSITIVE (GOOD-EXCELLENT) 79 PERCENT 85 PERCENT

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22 PERCENT NEGATIVE (ONLY FAIR-POOR) 15 PERCENT 10 PERCENT

5 PERCENT NOT SURE            6 PERCENT   5 PERCENT

3. CHILE. STRONG OPPOSITION TO US EFFORTS TO "DESTABILIZE" THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE WAS REGISTERED IN RESPONSE TO THIS QUESTION (RELEASED OCT. 28): "DO YOU THINK IT WAS RIGHT OR WRONG FOR THE UNITED STATES TO INTERVENE IN THE

INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CHILE AND TRY TO DESTABILIZE THE GOVERNMENT?" EIGHTEEN PERCENT SAID IT WAS RIGHT; 60 PERCENT SAID IT WAS WRONG; 22 PERCENT WEREN'T SURE WHETHER RIGHT OR WRONG. COMMENTING EDITORS HAVE ALSO REGISTERED A MAJORITY TERMING US EFFORTS TO "DESTABILIZE" THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT AS "WRONG."

4. NUCLEAR REACTORS. HEAVY OPPOSITION TO US NUCLEAR AID FOR EGYPT AND ISRAEL IS CLEAR FROM THE RESPONSES TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTION (RELEASED AUGUST 26): "WHEN PRESIDENT NIXON VISITED EGYPT HE ANNOUNCED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS GOING TO GIVE EGYPT NUCLEAR REACTORS WHICH WOULD LET THE EGYPTIANS DEVELOP ATOMIC POWER. LATER HE ANNOUNCED HE WAS GIVING ISRAEL THE SAME NUCLEAR HELP. DO YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE THE U.S. GIVING NUCLEAR REACTORS TO (EGYPT, ISRAEL) OR NOT?"

EGYPT                      ISRAEL

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 17 PERCENT FAVOR    | 21 PERCENT FAVOR    |
| 69 PERCENT OPPOSE   | 66 PERCENT OPPOSE   |
| 14 PERCENT NOT SURE | 13 PERCENT NOT SURE |

LOUIS HARRIS COMMENTED THAT "MOST PEOPLE SIMPLY DON'T BELIEVE THE REPEATED ASSURANCES OF KISSINGER AND OTHERS THAT SAFEGUARDS CAN BE EMPLOYED TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT A COUNTRY DOES NOT CONVERT A PEACETIME NUCLEAR CAPABILITY INTO A WAR-MAKING CAPACITY." HARRIS ALSO ASKED ABOUT GIVING NUCLEAR REACTORS TO EIGHT OTHER COUNTRIES. APPROVAL RANGED FROM 11 PERCENT IN THE CASE OF TAIWAN TO 20 PERCENT IN THE CASE OF AUSTRALIA; AND THE OPPOSING MAJORITIES WERE HEAVY IN EVERY CASE. SIMILARLY, ONLY 17 OUT OF 36 NEWSPAPERS APPROVED THE IDEA OF SELLING NUCLEAR

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REACTORS TO EGYPT--EVEN PRESUMING THAT STRONG SAFEGUARDS WOULD BE IMPOSED TO PREVENT DIVERSION OF NUCLEAR FUELS TO MILITARY OR TERRORIST USES. INGERSOLL

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